

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A financial transaction payment system, comprising:  
  
a consumer depository account maintained by a first financial institution holding funds on behalf of said consumer;  
  
and a credit payment card for conducting two or more transactions and incurring charges associated with each such transaction, said card being issued to said consumer by a second financial institution, said card further being linked to said depository account maintained at said first institution for covering said charges, and wherein a payment cycle is associated with said credit payment card and a credit payment card balance reflects a spending limit associated with said credit payment card;  
  
wherein ~~the total amount of said~~ at least a portion of said charges accumulated using said credit payment card ~~is~~ are deducted automatically from said depository account ~~periodically on a~~ periodic cycle corresponding to a user-determined deduction cycle and applied to said credit card balance.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The financial transaction payment system of claim 1, wherein a credit limit is associated with said card, which limit is reduced based on said charges, and refreshed automatically as a function of said deducting means.
4. (previously presented) The financial transaction payment system of claim 3, further comprising:

periodically informing said consumer of said charges made on the card and of the amount received from said consumer depository account to cover said charges.

5. (currently amended) A method for conducting financial transactions comprising:  
establishing a consumer depository account maintained by a first financial institution holding funds on behalf of said consumer;  
issuing a credit payment card, wherein a payment cycle is associated with said credit payment card and a credit payment card balance reflects a spending limit associated with said credit payment card, for conducting two or more transactions and incurring charges associated with each said transaction, said card being issued to said consumer by a second financial institution, said card further being linked to said depository account maintained at said first institution for covering said charges; ~~and~~  
automatically deducting from said depository account periodically on a periodic cycle corresponding to a user-determined deduction cycle an amount equal to at least a portion of said charges accumulated using said credit payment card; and  
applying said deductions to said credit card balance.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a credit limit is associated with said card, which limit is reduced based on said charges, and refreshed automatically as a function of said automatically deducting step.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising: periodically informing said consumer by said second financial institution of said charges made on the card and of the amount received from said consumer depository account to cover said charges.